

Wellington High School

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WHS Newsletter - The First Nine Weeks

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Overview

We kicked off the new school year with WHS Orientation in which all students reported for the first day of school, as opposed to only Freshman, for Student Orientation. The theme of the day was "Oh the Places Crusaders will go" with the focus of getting involved along with the building wide theme for all staff and students - "The Best Year Ever." The first half of the day was devoted to all upperclassmen, 10-12, while the afternoon was set aside for Freshman only, to allow them to get acclimated to the new building without the stress of having almost 500 students in the building all at once. There were several activities planned by the Orientation Committee including Class meetings with Administration, Club and Activities Fair, meeting all the teachers on students schedules, logging on to the computers with new passwords, and much more. This time also allowed us to present all the behavioral expectations to the students prior to starting the school year. Even though this was a new thing for the upperclassmen and they were requested to return a day earlier than they expected, all activities went extremely well and there was 98% of students in attendance and it truly was the start of the "Best Year Ever!".

CruCon update: Crusader Connections is our 3rd hour class for all students that allows for Character Education and career Interest / exploration lessons, tutoring, club meeting time and grade checks with students' Mentor teacher. Some slight changes were made this year which include different activities: curriculum for our Social-Emotional Learning lessons based



around a book study by Sean Covey titled “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” as well as Digital Citizenship which will start second nine weeks.

In addition, students also have lessons over Career Interests and Work Readiness as we begin to use the Career Cruising website in order to develop Individual Plans of Study for all students as KSDE outlines in their outcomes. Career Advisory time is focused on helping each student be what their dream by providing the structure to help students make clear, careful, and creative plans for life beyond high school. There will be a change to the October Parent-teacher Conferences. Instead of teachers leading the conferences, starting this year, students will lead their own conferences.

What are Student-led Conferences?

Student-led conferences will take place in the evening on October 24th and all day and evening on October 26th at Wellington High School. Students will contact their parents/guardians to reserve an appointment time during the second week of October. Student-led conferences will take place in the Crusader Connection classroom with the Crusader Connection teacher as the facilitator. This process allows students to outline for the parents what exactly they have learned over each semester and take ownership of their learning. The objective is to increase student accountability and autonomy concerning academics and their habits of work and learning as well as to hone student verbal communication and critical thinking skills and to build open relationships with families concerning student progress in high school. During each conference, students will demonstrate the responsibility to prepare, organize, and direct the conference with their parents, emphasizing the academic and behavioral accomplishments they have achieved during the school year and targeting additional goals and areas for growth.

Here is a video highlighting the benefits and process of student-led conferences as shared by another school district.

<https://youtu.be/8au4JqWboAQ>

Please connect with your student today to schedule your student-led conference.